

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers 311*

courtier poets,¹ One Abd-er-Rahman
wrote in
praise of Pavara, of its cool open courts
and play-
ing fountains:

Thy waters divide themselves into new
brooks;
how peacefully they flow apart! The
pure limpid
water of both the springs seems like
liquid pearls
and spreads itself as it wore an ocean,
while the great
fish swim in the clear wave, and the birds
among th©
gardens chant their songs.

The poet Abu-ad-daw wrote a
lament for the
King's gallant eldest born, Roger;

His tents weep him, and Ms palaces; the
swords and
the lances are for him like women
mourners, Hearts
are rent with grief no less than
garments; th© hands
of the brave have fallen; valiant souls are
filled with
dread; their words fail the eloquent,

Another fragment of Arab poetry says
of Roger,-
"on the darkness shines his brilliant
face, the sun
might be envious of him; he has
pitched his tent
where the Gemini rise, its pegs are the
two great
lights of Heaven, and the Pleiades,"

The most distinguished Moslem
whose name is
associated with that of Roger is the
geographer
Abu-Abd-Allah Mohammed Edrisi,
Edrisi stands
unique among the geographers of
the Middle
Age; he is " the Strabo of the Arabs."
He was a
man of the Prophet's kin, and Ms long
life (1099-

1180) was devoted to the study of the world. He was born at Ceuta and studied at Cordova, and

¹ Schaek, *Poesw tier Araber in Spanien u» Sicilian*, it, *loc*, »«F